



**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

900 Chapel Street, 9th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510-2807



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN**

18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 26, 2006**

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Food for Thought: Local Leaders Discuss Childhood Obesity

City and Town Officials Present Local Efforts to Tackle Epidemic

HARTFORD – When lawmakers passed groundbreaking legislation on healthy foods and beverages in schools, it changed the landscape for Connecticut’s cities and towns.

Many municipal leaders already are promoting healthy living for their youngest residents. For every city and town, the best approach varies. In an effort to highlight options for local officials, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Connecticut Commission on Children (COC) will present “Food for Thought: Acting Locally to Address Childhood Obesity.” The event will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27, at the Lyceum Conference Center, 227 Lawrence Street in Hartford.

The forum will show municipal officials the various promising practices being implemented throughout the state to address childhood obesity, such as walking trails, farmers markets and city plan initiatives. Information on funding opportunities and statewide plans will also be outlined.

Over the past two decades, childhood obesity rates have tripled. If the trend continues, this generation of children will be the first to live fewer years on average than their parents. Obesity is also tied to the dramatic rise in health care costs; Connecticut spent \$856 million on obesity-related health issues in 2003.

The Childhood Obesity Initiative is a project of CCM, COC, and the National League of Cities (NLC). It is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The primary goal of the effort is to heighten awareness among municipal leaders of this growing epidemic. Through a series of forums, technical assistance, and public awareness, mayors, first selectmen and other municipal officials will strengthen their role in addressing childhood obesity in their cities and towns.

For more information on the June 27 event, contact Andrea Comer, CCM’s childhood obesity coordinator, at (860) 560-9078 or andrea.comer@cga.ct.gov.



Food for Thought: Acting Locally to Address Childhood Obesity

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

9 to 11:30 a.m.

Lyceum Conference Center, 227 Lawrence Street, Hartford

AGENDA

- I. Opening**
Ron Thomas, Manager, State and Federal Relations, CCM
- II. Welcome**
Councilman Robert Painter, City of Hartford
- III. Childhood Obesity Trends & Health Impacts**
Christine Parker, Obesity Program Director, Connecticut Department of Public Health
- IV. What's at Stake for Towns and Cities**
Elaine Zimmerman, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Children
- V. Introductions**
- VI. Hartford Team Presentation**
- VII. Roundtable Discussion – Local Approaches**
 - a. Tim Callahan, Norwalk Health Director:
Replicating a community-focused walking program.
 - b. Baker Salisbury, East Hartford Health Director; President, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health:
Healthy Living Resource Toolkit and the role health departments can play.
 - c. Jennifer McTiernan H., Executive Director, CitySeed:
How farmer's markets can promote healthy eating among high-risk populations.
- VIII. Interactive Dialogue**
Elaine Zimmerman & Ron Thomas
- IX. Next Steps & Closing**
Elaine Zimmerman & Ron Thomas